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Washington, DC 20240

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 21, 2015

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**Office of the Special Trustee Debuts Empowerment Saga Financial Education Materials at National Congress for American Indians Convention**

*OST presents Empowerment Saga comic book series to teach important financial education topics to indigenous youth in accessible and engaging medium*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians debuts its marquee youth financial education product, the Empowerment Saga, at the 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Congress of American Indians Convention & Marketplace, this week.

The comic book series is told from a Native American perspective, taking on financial education issues that affect Indian Country, in all age groups. The comic books offer narratives about real-life situations that may affect young Native American as they grow. In addition to the comic books, a coloring book is also included in the series to provide lessons for a younger audience.

“We hope to reach a wider audience and teach them about responsible financial decisions in their lives,” said Brian Ross, OST’s Director of Financial Education. “OST is an agency that addresses Indian Country in all stages of their life, we hope this will help get the dialog started, and tell people about what OST does.”

The Empowerment Saga is composed of 6 comic books:

1. Journey of Trade: See how the past influences the present
2. Quest for a Job: The importance of saving and planning for financial responsibility
3. Adventures of Banking: Learn about bank accounts and financial services
4. Exploring a New Frontier: Exploring your credit choices
5. A Loan or Not a Loan? : Consequences of borrowing money and repaying loans
6. The Choice: The rewards of making the right life choices and how traditional values can help

“I travel across the country, teaching many different lessons about financial literacy to a wide variety of populations in Indian Country and I know this will be a great way to help teach the basics,” said Ross. “Launching the Empowerment Saga at NCAI will help us broaden our reach and hopefully get teenagers interested in financial skills sooner rather than later.”

The Empowerment Saga will be available at the OST booth at NCAI where you can learn more about OST’s financial education initiative and other services available to tribes and communities in Indian Country.